

'Was to Meet Someone In Japan' Youth Tells Vetterli Jury

Official Demands Apology; 'No' Says City Councilman

City's Worth Up Only 4 Per Cent



EARNING HIS FINN . . . Jo Ann Herbst, a recreation director at El Retiro Park, gives Johnny Borman a swimming lesson during the first city-sponsored trek to Alondra Park pool on Tuesday. More than 300 kids made the trip the first day. The Torrance Kiwanis Club has underwritten the cost of hauling local youngsters to the pool twice weekly. Kids between 6 and 12 may register at any park in Torrance. The trips are made Tuesday and Thursdays.—(Herald Photo)

Rookie Cops Pull Neat Bluff on Sink Bandits

Two rookie Torrance policemen this week borrowed a trick from the poker table—"the bluff," to capture two men stealing a sink and dishwasher from a new home tract.

Although unarmed, Officers Jay H. Stroh and Bruce Gooler hid beneath an oil derrick; shouted to one of the suspects "Come on out from under there or we will blast you out."

Apparently figuring this was the showdown and no place to be taking a chance the suspected thief crawled from under the derrick to surrender.

PAIR BOOKED
The two men booked at the Torrance city jail on a grand theft charge were Luther Metral Skoen, 4575 West 147th street and William Frank Armstrong, 16119 Hawthorne boulevard.

Being chased as they were racing with a truck on which they had loaded a General Electric kitchen sink and automatic dishwasher during broad daylight the pair stalled their truck and took to the fields.

BOTH TAKEN
The two rookie police officers working on their days off as watchmen for the Torrance Gardens new-home tract took out across the fields and captured one of the men in the field, the other under the derrick floor.

Held in lieu of \$500 bail the pair are awaiting a hearing scheduled to be held today in the City Court of Judge Otto B. Willett.

RESIDENT SINCE '17
Stanger has been a resident of Torrance since he first came here in 1917 with the exception of two years he served with the Navy during World War I. He worked for the National Supply until December 1929 when he was a victim of a hit and run accident that put him on crutches for four and a half years.

In effect, Stanger's long career of public service will end on August 1 when he will clear off his desk top to start a two-week vacation. His successor for the present is Angus McVicar, assistant superintendent of the Water Department. His permanent successor will be picked following a civil service examination for the job.

TAKE IT EASY
"Don't plan to do much in my spare time—can't do much if I follow the advice of the med-lics," said Stanger. "Just sit on the porch and take things easy."

He lives at 1605 Cota avenue with his wife Cleora, who served as first Matron of the Torrance Chapter of Eastern Star, Mrs.

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'Making Every Effort to Get Hospital'—King

Representative Cecil R. King (D-Calif.), writing about the proposed Naval hospital to be located in the harbor area, told the Torrance-Lomita Realty Board this week that ". . . every effort is being made to locate the facility in the San Pedro area."

King's letter to C. J. "Paddy" Ryan, president of the local realty group, was in answer to the realty board's telegram urging King to back the proposal for the hospital to be located in this area.

The board had suggested the possible use of a Navy-owned site at Western avenue and Palos Verdes Drive, now used as a storage for surplus landing craft. Enclosed with King's letter was a communique from Under Secretary of the Navy Dan H. Kimball. The high Navy official explained that the site was also being used for another Navy use which would not make it desirable as a hospital site.

Although he could offer little news that was definite concerning a near-by site, Kimball did state that no decision had been made regarding the type, size, or location of the proposed hospital.

Vetterli Perjury Trial Opens in Federal Court

A strange tale of spying in Japan was recounted yesterday by a young Japanese-American at the perjury trial of Clarence H. Vetterli, 41-year-old El Camino College journalism instructor.

Taking the stand yesterday in the trial which opened before U. S. Judge Pierson M. Hall Tuesday, Ted Miwa testified that Vetterli gave him \$600 in 1941 and told him to go to Japan where he would be contacted by an "unknown person."

Miwa testified that he was told to wear a Panama hat and smoke a cigar while standing under a famous Tokyo statue. He said "someone" was to meet him there. After waiting three days and three nights, Miwa said, he was approached by no one.

The young Japanese-American said Japan got "too hot" for him, and he returned to the United States by way of the Philippines. He said he joined the Army after returning to the States.

REPEATS ORDERS
Under questioning by U. S. Attorney Ernest T. Tolin, Miwa said he had distinct orders from Vetterli to ignore any instructions he might receive which would endanger his citizenship rights, or be adverse to United States interests.

The purpose of the Japanese trip was to work against the Tojo-led government, he testified. Vetterli was indicted for allegedly giving false testimony to a Federal grand jury in 1949 during its investigation into espionage cases.

He tried to plead guilty to one of the charges when he originally appeared before U. S. Judge William M. Byrne last May 22, but the judge refused to accept his plea and ordered the case transferred to Judge Hall for trial.

The El Camino instructor allegedly denied furnishing Miwa, a Japanese merchant, money to go to Japan in 1941. He also denied that he knew Ignacy Samuel Witezak was a Communist agent. Witezak fled the country in 1945 after he was named a member of a Canadian Russian spy ring.

Vetterli lives at 17107 Crenshaw boulevard in North Torrance.

Derby Drivers Vie For \$5000 Scholarship

When the first elimination races of America's greatest amateur racing classic—the Soap Box Derby, take place next week 16 boys from Torrance will be hoping they coast to the \$5000 scholarship offered by the Chevrolet dealers of America.

Currently on display in the showroom windows of Paul's Chevrolet, 1640 Cabrillo avenue, are the motorless coasters which will compete in the elimination races to be held Wednesday and Thursday, July 18 and 19 in Arroyo Seco Playground in Los Angeles.

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FIRST THINGS FIRST . . . Firemen spray water on the tall timbers of this burning oil derrick which threatened several homes in the Kettler Knolls area last Friday afternoon. A slipping bull wheel belt is believed cause of the fire which did an estimated \$2500 to \$3000 damage to the rig.—(Herald Photo).

FINE METED OUT TO GAS PIRATES

Two service station operators who hijacked their gasoline by tapping a General Petroleum Corp. gasoline line were jailed yesterday after paying \$200 fines.

Bernard D. Schaffer, 31, and Raymond C. Lloyd, 31, both pleaded guilty to 10 counts of petty theft and were fined and sentenced to 180 days in jail.

City's Valuation Not As High As Officials Hoped

Hopeful that the valuation of the City of Torrance would top last year's mark by at least six per cent burst wide open this week following the announcement of the city's worth by County Assessor John Quinn.

Value of the city is \$49,495,540 an increase of \$1,883,790 over last year. This does not include the public utilities which will be valued at \$1,000,000.

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Demands Public Apology

Had it happened 100 years ago instead of at the Torrance City Council meeting Tuesday night, it might well be that a councilman and a transportation executive would be meeting today to settle with pistols a matter of honor.

"Slapped was Councilman Nick Draie by a literary glove in letter form which was wielded by C. L. Craven, a leading transportation consultant, who indicated he had been insulted by remarks alleged to have been made by the city councilman.

HIRED BY CITY
Craven, hired by the city to attempt to find out "why is it costing the city \$30,000 a year to operate the city garage?" demanded an apology from Draie for remarks the councilman is alleged to have made and which appeared in a local newspaper (not the Torrance Herald).

"While I am sympathetic with the natural desire of an elected public official to see his name in the paper and to pose as a friend of local business," wrote Craven, "I resent very seriously the liberties that Mr. Draie has taken with my personal reputation."

"These statements reflect upon my personal integrity," Craven said. **OBJECTED TO QUOTE**
Craven objected to a quote by Draie in which he claimed "Most" of the purchases for the city garage and bus department were going to the Harval Truck and Equipment Company in Los Angeles.

Craven had suggested that the city could save money at the Los Angeles firm because of a fleet discount offered by the firm.

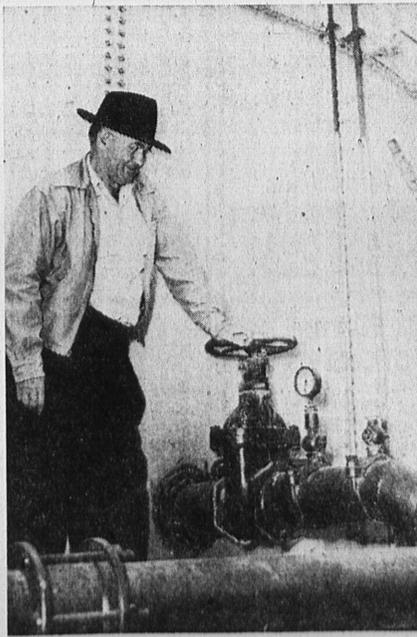
"The fact is that during May and June, the period I was employed as Automotive Engineer, a total of \$4908 was spent by the city garage and bus department, and of this sum only \$145 was spent with

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Council Okays \$1000 Per Year Salary Increase To City Manager

In view of a three-year contract and a \$1000 per year salary increase granted Tuesday night, City Manager George Stevens said yesterday he was withdrawing his application for the same job with the city of Arcadia.

Granting of the salary boost, the first for the city manager since he came to Torrance three years ago, was voted by the Torrance City Council in a regular meeting Tuesday night. The increase brings his total yearly salary to \$11,000. Stevens said he would have accepted the Arcadia position if offered because the position paid more money. The motion to grant the increase passed four to one—Councilman Nick Draie dissenting.



WILLIAM H. "BILL" STANGER
... Shuts Off Long Career of Public Service

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